

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A fiber-reinforced, flexible matrix, wherein said matrix comprises:
about 10% to about 75% by weight of waste scrap carpeting, wherein said carpeting has a polyvinyl chloride backing and carpet fibers from a polymer having a melting point higher than the melting point of polyvinyl chloride; and
about 25% to about 90% by weight of a flexible polyvinyl chloride, wherein said matrix is a substantially continuous phase of polyvinyl chloride having carpet fibers dispersed therein.
2. (Original) The matrix of claim 1, further comprising up to about 5% by weight of a polyvinyl chloride plasticizer.
3. (Original) The matrix of claim 1, further comprising up to about 5% by weight of a polyethylene copolymer.
4. (Original) The matrix of claim 1, wherein said matrix is a substantially homogenous mixture of polyvinyl chloride and discrete carpet fibers having a length of about 1/8 to about 2 inches.
5. (Original) The matrix of claim 1, wherein said polymeric fibers are selected from the group consisting of polyamide fibers, polyester fibers and mixtures thereof.
6. (Original) The matrix of claim 1, wherein said matrix comprises about 45% to about 85% by weight polyvinyl chloride.

7. (Original) The matrix of claim 1, wherein said flexible polyvinyl chloride is virgin polyvinyl chloride having a Shore A hardness of about 40 to about 100.

8. (Original) The matrix of claim 1, wherein said carpet scrap is selected from the group consisting of carpet scrap, post consumer carpet scrap, post industrial scrap, and mixtures thereof.

9. (Original) The matrix of claim 2, wherein said plasticizer is dioctyl phthalate.

10. (Original) The matrix of claim 1, wherein said matrix comprises about 5-20% by weight carpet fibers.

11. (Original) The matrix of claim 1, wherein said matrix comprises about 10-55% by weight polyvinyl chloride from said carpet.

12. (Original) The matrix of claim 1, wherein said carpet comprises about 15% fiber, about 45% polyvinyl chloride backing and about 40% inert material wherein the percentages are based on the weight of the matrix.

13. (Original) The matrix of claim 12, wherein said fibers comprise polyamide fibers, polyester fibers, and mixtures thereof.

Claims 14-33 (Cancelled)